Abstract of the Disclosure:

An audio decoding device for decompressing an audio signal that was compressed in accordance with a given compression method having a program-controlled signal processor which receives the compressed audio signal and from it produces a decompressed audio signal under the control of a decompression program; a loadable program memory that is connected to the signal processor for storing the decompression program; and a management device which is connected to the program memory and is controlled by the compressed audio signal, and which manages decompression programs corresponding to at least two different compression methods in order to determine the respectively used compression method from the compressed audio signal, to select the pertinent decompression program and to load the pertinent decompression program into the program memory.